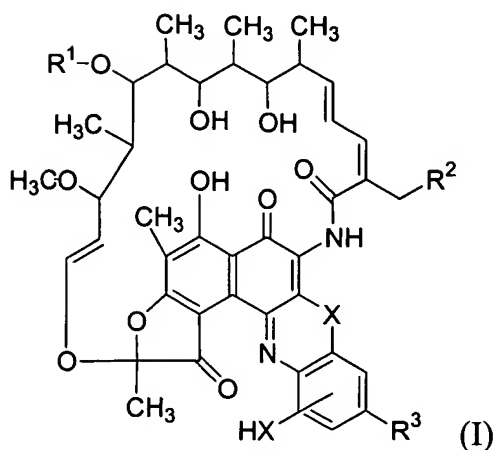


Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I):



in an amount between 0.001% and 5% weight/volume (w/v) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for topical administration to the ear of a patient.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said compound is rifalazil.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising a porous media impregnated with said compound, said media being suitable for insertion into the ear of said patient.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein said porous media is an ear wick comprising a substrate selected from the group consisting of a sponge, gauze, cotton, and hydroxycellulose.

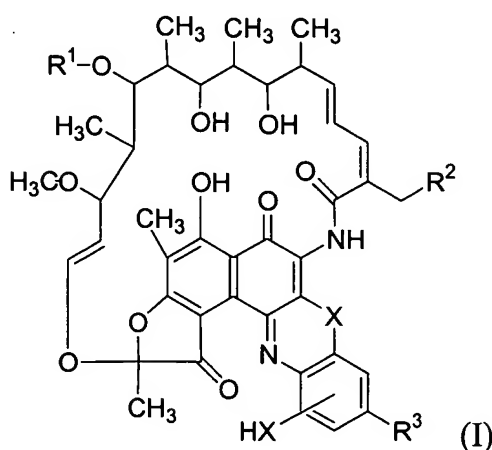
5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises a penetration enhancer.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, wherein said penetration enhancer is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, polyols, sulfoxides, esters, ketones, amides, oleates, surfactants, alkanolic acids, lactam compounds, alkanols, and admixtures thereof.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising a second therapeutic agent.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, wherein said second therapeutic agent is an anesthetic, anti-inflammatory agent, anti-microbial agent, or zinc salt.

9. A method for treating or preventing a bacterial ear infection in a patient, said method comprising topically administering to the ear of said patient a compound of formula (I):



in an amount effective to treat or prevent said ear infection in said patient.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is rifalazil.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said patient is a human.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein said ear infection is otitis media or otitis externa.
13. The method of claim 9, wherein said composition is administered to the tympanic membrane or external auditory canal of said patient.
14. The method of claim 9, wherein said patient has undergone or will undergo surgery of said ear.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein said composition is administered to the area of the ear to which surgery has been or will be performed.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said composition is administered within seven days prior to and after said surgery.
17. The method of claim 9, wherein said patient is administered one to four drops of a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound, wherein said compound is in the amount between 0.001% and 5% w/v.
18. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is administered for a period of 1 to 14 days.
19. The method of claim 9, wherein said method further comprises administering to said patient a second therapeutic agent.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein said second therapeutic agent is an anesthetic, anti-inflammatory agent, anti-microbial agent, or zinc salt.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said compound and said second therapeutic agent are administered in the same formulation.

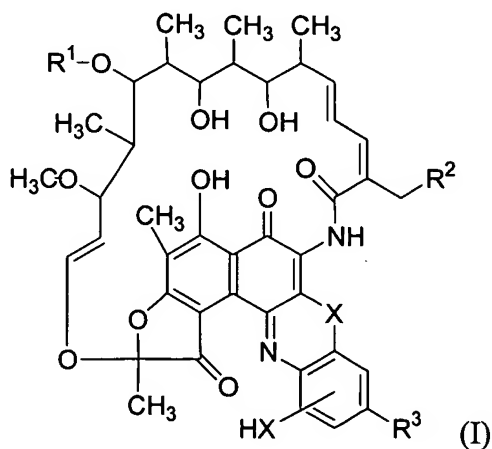
22. The method of claim 19, wherein said compound and said second therapeutic agent are administered in different formulations.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein said compound and said second therapeutic agent are administered by different routes of administration.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein said compound and said second therapeutic agent are administered within 24 hours of each other.

25. The method of claim 9, wherein said method further comprises reducing the amount of debris or granulation tissue in said ear of said patient prior to said topical administration of said compound.

26. A pharmaceutical pack comprising (i) a composition comprising a compound of formula (I):

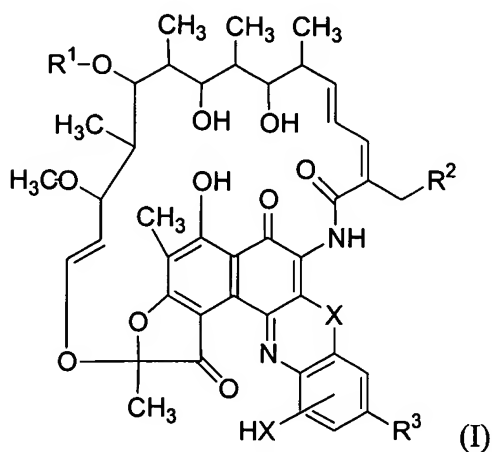


in an amount effective to treat a patient having an ear infection; and (ii) instructions for administering said compound to the ear of said patient.

27. The pharmaceutical pack of claim 26, wherein said compound is in an amount between 0.001% and 5% w/v.

28. The pharmaceutical pack of claim 26, wherein said compound is rifalazil.

29. A container comprising a composition comprising a compound of formula (I):



and a pharmaceutical excipient suitable for topical administration to the ear of a patient.

30. The container of claim 29, wherein the container further comprises an applicator for applying said composition to the ear.